

What you can do to save water and have a green lawn

- If you are building a new home or laying new sod, be sure there is **at least six inches of topsoil** beneath the sod.
- **Test your soil and consider adding compost** as organic material. It will dramatically increase the absorption of water.
- **Follow the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense guidelines** for landscaping: Limit the amount of turf you plant, don't plant grass on steep slopes, don't install ornamental water features.
- **Don't overwater.** Most lawns need only one inch of water each week, either from rain or from irrigation. If you don't have a rain gauge, set out a small tuna can. If it fills up in a week from rain, you don't need to sprinkle.
- **Step on your grass.** If it springs back, it doesn't need watering.
- **Water early in the morning** to cut losses to evaporation. The middle of the day is the worst time.
- **Use micro-irrigation or drip systems**, not sprinklers, on planting beds and strips of grass that are less than eight feet wide.
- **Cut grass no shorter than two inches.** It will promote deeper roots that require less water.
- **Install a weather-sensing controller** or soil-moisture sensor as part of your automated sprinkling system. They will reduce over-watering.
- **Aerate your lawn**, as needed.
- If you use a hose for watering grass or shrubs, **be sure it has a shut-off nozzle.**

For information, visit [Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense program](#).